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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Davis et al.

Application No.: 09/507,096

Filed: February 17, 2000

For: ASSOCIATING DATA WITH MEDIA
       SIGNALS USING EMBEDDED
       SIGNALS (As Amended)

Examiner:

Date: June 28, 2000

Art Unit 2771

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the subject application as follows:

Please amend the title to read:

ASSOCIATING DATA WITH MEDIA SIGNALS USING EMBEDDED SIGNALS

Please replace the text at page 1, line 24 to page 2 line 16 with the following:

The invention provides various methods, systems and devices for associating metadata with media signals, such as image and audio signals. One aspect of the invention is a media signal capture device including a recorder for capturing a media signal, and a steganographic encoder for encoding auxiliary data in the media signal. This device may encode a variety of types of data into media signal at the time of recording. Examples of data types include attributes of the media signal, a reference to external data (e.g., metadata stored in a computer network), authentication data used to authenticate the media signal, etc.

Another aspect of the invention is a media signal capture device including a recorder for capturing a media signal, a processing unit for associating auxiliary data with the media signal, and an interface for receiving session parameters that govern operation of the media signal

capture device during a session. The session parameters may be used to control a variety of
functions on the device. One use of the session parameters is to specify auxiliary data to be
associated with media signals captured by the recorder during a session.

Another aspect of the invention is a method for associating auxiliary data with a media
signal. The method extracts a steganographic reference to auxiliary data in the media signal. It
then queries a metadata database to request the auxiliary data associated with the media signal
using the extracted reference to access the auxiliary data in the metadata database. The method
receives the auxiliary data from the database.

Please amend the abstract on page 34 as follows:

ASSOCIATING DATA WITH MEDIA SIGNALS USING EMBEDDED SIGNALS

Abstract of the Disclosure

A steganographic embedder associates metadata with a media signal by encoding the
data, a link to the data, or a combination of both into the media signal. The embedder may be
located in a media signal capture device or an external process or device. In one application, for
example, an embedder process steganographically encodes data into a media signal as part of the
process of uploading the media signal from the media signal capture device to an external device.
In another application, a media signal capture device includes a steganographic embedder that
encodes data or a link to external metadata into the media signal at the time of recording.

Please cancel claims 1-37 without prejudice

Please add the following claims:

--38. A media signal capture device including:
a recorder for capturing a media signal; and
a steganographic encoder for encoding auxiliary data in the media signal.